



Australian HIV Surveillance Report

National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research

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Trends in newly acquired HIV infection in Australia, January 1993 – September 1998

Cases of newly diagnosed HIV infection with evidence of when the infection was acquired provide crucial information on patterns of HIV transmission in a population, which can be used in the design of effective HIV prevention programs. In 1991, national surveillance for cases of newly diagnosed HIV infection in Australia was extended to include information on when the infection was probably acquired, providing a routinely available indication of current patterns of HIV transmission. Characteristics of cases of newly acquired HIV infection, diagnosed by December 1997, has been reported previously (NCHECR 1998). We report an update on the pattern of newly acquired HIV infection in Australia based on cases of HIV infection newly diagnosed from 1 January 1993 to 30 September 1998.

Cases of *newly diagnosed* HIV infection are cases of HIV infection diagnosed in Australia for the first time; no reference is made as to when HIV infection was acquired. Cases of *newly acquired* HIV infection are cases of *newly diagnosed* HIV infection with reported evidence of the infection having been acquired in the year prior to HIV diagnosis. Evidence for *newly acquired* HIV infection includes the diagnosis of an HIV seroconversion illness (Boyle *et al* 1994) or a negative or indeterminate HIV antibody test result in the 12 months prior to HIV diagnosis. Further information on the methods of national surveillance for newly acquired HIV infection is available in McDonald *et al* 1994 and NCHECR 1998.

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The National Centre is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care through the Australian National Council on AIDS and Related Diseases (ANCARD), and is affiliated with the Faculty of Medicine, University of New South Wales

ANNOUNCEMENTS

National meetings

The conference 'Minimising the Harm: Health in Prisons' will be held in Sydney, New South Wales, on 14 – 16 February 1999, at the Millennium Hotel. Further information may be obtained through the Public Health Association Conference Secretariat, PO Box 319, Curtin ACT 2605.

Telephone: 02 6285 2373

Facsimile: 02 6282 5438

E-mail: conference@pha.org.au

The 2nd Australasian Conference on Hepatitis C, HCV – the evolving epidemic, will be held in Christchurch, New Zealand, on 17 – 19 August 1999. Further information may be obtained through the Conference Secretariat, PO Box 1370 Christchurch, New Zealand.

Telephone: 64 3 379 0390

Facsimile: 64 3 379 0460

E-mail: cindy@conference.co.nz

Website: www.cae.canterbury.ac.nz/hcv/hcv99.htm

The 11th Annual Conference of the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine will be held in Perth, Western Australia, on 2– 5 December 1999. Further information may be obtained from Associate Professor Martyn French, Department of Clinical Immunology, Royal Perth Hospital, GPO Box X2213, Perth WA 6001.

Telephone: 08 9224 2899

Facsimile: 08 9224 2920

E-mail: martfren@rph.health.wa.gov.au

International meeting

The 5th International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 23 – 27 October 1999. Further information may be obtained from Julie Wong.

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Diagnoses of HIV infection in adults and adolescents (cases aged 13 years or older at HIV diagnosis) were included in the analysis. Cases of newly diagnosed HIV infection were separated into cases of *newly acquired* HIV infection and "other" HIV diagnoses, that is cases without a report of a negative test or a diagnosis of HIV seroconversion illness in the 12 months prior to HIV diagnosis.

Over the interval 1 January 1993 to 30 September 1998, the annual number of cases of *newly diagnosed* HIV infection in men continued its downward trend, first observed in 1986 (NCHECR 1998); the number of cases of *newly diagnosed* HIV infection among women remained steady at about 70 each year. The majority (53%) of cases of HIV infection were diagnosed in New South Wales; 20% were diagnosed in Victoria, 15% in Queensland and the other States and Territories (Australian Capital Territory, Northern Territory, South Australia, Tasmania and Western Australia) combined contributed 12% of the diagnoses (Table 1.1). The distribution of cases of *newly diagnosed* HIV infection by State/ Territory did not change over time.

The annual number of reported cases of *newly acquired* HIV infection also declined over time, from 208 in 1993 to 100 in the first 9 months of 1998 (Table 1.1). However, the proportion of cases of *newly diagnosed* HIV infection with evidence of *newly acquired* infection increased from 19% in 1993 to 24% in 1995 and then declined to 18% in 1998. Almost all cases (95%) of *newly acquired* HIV infection were in males.

The mean age of cases of *newly acquired* HIV infection was significantly younger than that of other HIV diagnoses ($p < 0.0001$). Median CD4+ cell count of cases of *newly acquired* HIV infection was significantly higher than that of other HIV diagnoses ($p < 0.0001$) (Table 1.2), corroborating the evidence of new infection. CD4+ cell count for approximately 27% of other HIV diagnoses was above 500 cells/ μ l, suggesting that some of these cases may also have been *newly acquired*, although no evidence for new infection was reported. No trend was observed in the proportion of other HIV diagnoses with a CD4+ cell count above 500 cells/ μ l, suggesting that reporting practices had not changed for cases in this group.

Exposure to HIV in the majority of cases of *newly acquired* HIV infection (86%) diagnosed throughout the interval January 1993 to September 1998 was attributed to a history of male homosexual contact, with or without a history of injecting drug use. A history of heterosexual contact only was reported in 8% of diagnoses of *newly acquired* HIV infection and less than 3% of cases reported a history of injecting drug use; the source of exposure to HIV remained undetermined in 3% of cases. The distribution of cases of *newly acquired* HIV infection by reported exposure to HIV did not change over time.

Table 1.1
Number of cases of newly diagnosed HIV infection and number with evidence of newly acquired infection, by State/Territory and year

Year of HIV diagnosis	NSW		QLD		VIC		Others		Total	
	Newly diagnosed	Newly acquired	Newly diagnosed	Newly acquired	Newly diagnosed	Newly acquired	Newly diagnosed	Newly acquired	Newly diagnosed	Newly acquired
1993	616	144	138	6	222	31	123	27	1099	208
1994	513	121	166	20	216	64	127	12	1022	217
1995	543	129	116	28	165	40	110	25	934	222
1996	470	87	154	21	186	42	111	21	921	171
1997	411	66	112	19	180	50	85	19	788	154
1998	289	44	85	15	97	23	78	18	549	100

Table 1.2
Characteristics of cases of newly diagnosed HIV infection and cases with evidence of newly acquired HIV infection, January 1993 – September 1998.

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	Jan – Sep 98	Jan 93 – Sep 98
Number of new HIV diagnoses	1099	1022	934	921	788	549	5313
% male	92.5	91.1	92.2	92.3	88.8	86.5	91.0
Number newly acquired	208	217	222	171	154	100	1072
% male	96.2	92.2	95.0	95.39	93.5	97.4	94.8
Mean age							
Newly acquired	30	31	33	32	33	33	32
Other diagnoses	34	35	35	35	36	37	36
Median CD4+ count							
Newly acquired	530	590	557	619	610	570	580
Other diagnoses	360	325	320	320	314	322	325

The proportion of cases of *newly diagnosed* HIV infection identified as *newly acquired* varied by State/Territory health authority (Table 1.1). Over the interval January 1993 to September 1998, 21%, 14% and 23% of HIV diagnoses in New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria, respectively, were reported as cases of *newly acquired* HIV infection; the proportion reported as *newly acquired* by the other States and Territories combined was 19%.

In New South Wales, the proportion of cases of *newly diagnosed* HIV infection with evidence of *newly acquired* infection remained stable at 23% in 1993 – 1995 and then declined significantly ($P < 0.001$) to 19% in 1996 and to 15% in 1998. In Queensland, Victoria and the other States and Territories combined, the proportion of diagnoses identified as *newly acquired* remained relatively stable (Table 1.1). The decline in the number of diagnoses of *newly acquired* HIV infection in New South Wales may be partly attributable to clarification of reports of HIV seroconversion illness, introduced in late 1995, which resulted in a drop in the number of cases of newly acquired HIV infection based on a diagnosis of HIV seroconversion illness only. The decline may also be partly attributable to underreporting. The proportion of HIV diagnoses in New South Wales for which information on HIV exposure category was recorded as “Other/undetermined” increased from 12.5% in 1993 – 1995 to 25% in 1998.

While national surveillance for *newly acquired* HIV infection identifies a selected population, the available information indicates that HIV transmission in Australia continues to be primarily in men aged in their early thirties who report a history of male homosexual contact. The surveillance system provides a minimum estimate of the number of cases of HIV transmission that have actually occurred. The increasing proportion of HIV diagnoses with incomplete information suggests that some underreporting of newly acquired HIV infection may have occurred, in addition to those cases without evidence of recent infection. Time trends in the number of diagnoses of *newly acquired* HIV infection should therefore be interpreted cautiously.

Reported by

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References

Boyle MJ, McMurchie M, Tindall B and Cooper DA. HIV seroconversion illness. In "Could it be HIV?" 2nd edition. Graeme Stewart (editor). *Medical Journal of Australia*, 1993.

McDonald AM, Gertig DM, Crofts N, Kaldor JM, for the National HIV Surveillance Committee. A national surveillance system for newly acquired HIV infection. *Am J Public Health* 1994; 84 (12): 1923-1928

National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research. *HIV/AIDS and related diseases in Australia Annual Surveillance Report 1998*. National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research, University of New South Wales, Sydney, 1998.

Home page: <http://www.med.unsw.edu.au/nchecr>

THE NATIONAL AIDS REGISTRY

Table 2.1

Cases of AIDS and deaths following AIDS by sex and State/Territory in which diagnosis of AIDS was made, cumulative to 30 September 1998, and for two previous yearly intervals.

Cases

STATE/ TERRITORY	1 Oct 96 – 30 Sep 97		1 Oct 97 – 30 Sep 98		Cumulative to 30 Sep 98			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
ACT	3	0	2	1	82	8	90	1.1
NSW	181	9	134	4	4441	162	4614	58.1
NT	3	0	2	0	32	0	32	0.4
QLD	53	9	30	4	773	45	820	10.3
SA	21	1	9	1	325	20	345	4.4
TAS	6	0	1	0	43	2	45	0.6
VIC	68	7	51	2	1558	64	1629	20.5
WA	15	4	6	0	337	23	362	4.6
TOTAL†	350	30	235	12	7591	324	7937	100.0

Deaths

ACT	0	0	0	0	62	2	64	1.1
NSW	147	5	46	1	3070	113	3190	56.6
NT	2	0	1	0	24	0	24	0.4
QLD	35	1	11	3	534	30	566	10.1
SA	9	1	11	1	222	15	237	4.2
TAS	1	0	1	0	27	2	29	0.5
VIC	69	4	32	4	1217	46	1269	22.5
WA	15	1	2	2	241	16	258	4.6
TOTAL†	278	12	104	11	5397	224	5637	100.0

† Total columns in Tables 2.1 – 2.5 and 5.1 include 22 AIDS cases and 16 deaths following AIDS in people whose sex was reported as transgender.

Table 2.2
Incidence of AIDS per million current population¹ by sex and State/Territory of diagnosis for the two most recent yearly intervals.

STATE/ TERRITORY	1 Oct 96 – 30 Sep 97			1 Oct 97 – 30 Sep 98		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
ACT	19.6	0.0	9.7	13.0	6.5	9.7
NSW	58.1	2.8	30.3	42.5	1.3	21.8
NT	30.5	0.0	16.1	20.0	0.0	10.5
QLD	31.2	5.3	18.3	17.3	2.3	9.8
SA	28.7	1.3	14.9	12.2	1.3	6.7
TAS	25.7	0.0	12.7	4.3	0.0	2.1
VIC	29.9	3.0	16.3	22.1	0.8	11.4
WA	16.6	4.5	10.6	6.5	0.0	3.3
TOTAL	38.0	3.2	20.5	25.2	1.3	13.2

1. Population estimates by sex, State/Territory and calendar period from *Australian Demographic Statistics* (Australian Bureau of Statistics).

Table 2.3
Cases of AIDS and deaths following AIDS by sex and age group, cumulative to 30 September 1998, and for two previous yearly intervals.

Cases¹

AGEGROUP (years)	1 Oct 96 – 30 Sep 97		1 Oct 97 – 30 Sep 98		Cumulative to 30 Sep 98			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
0 – 2	0	1	1	0	9	7	16	0.2
3 – 12	0	0	0	0	19	9	28	0.4
0 – 12	0	1	1	0	28	16	44	0.6
13 – 19	1	0	0	0	25	4	29	0.4
20 – 29	42	8	31	3	1283	85	1381	17.4
30 – 39	143	13	93	5	3195	110	3311	41.7
40 – 49	100	4	69	3	2137	53	2192	27.6
50 – 59	47	3	29	0	698	26	725	9.1
60 +	17	1	12	1	225	30	255	3.2
TOTAL[†]	350	30	235	12	7591	324	7937	100.0

Deaths²

AGEGROUP (years)	1 Oct 96 – 30 Sep 97		1 Oct 97 – 30 Sep 98		Cumulative to 30 Sep 98			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
0 – 2	0	0	0	0	5	5	10	0.2
3 – 12	0	0	0	2	16	6	22	0.4
0 – 12	0	0	0	2	21	11	32	0.6
13 – 19	0	0	0	0	13	3	16	0.3
20 – 29	15	2	12	0	643	41	694	12.3
30 – 39	115	9	42	5	2179	80	2263	40.2
40 – 49	96	1	23	4	1708	40	1750	31.0
50 – 59	42	0	17	0	632	22	654	11.6
60 +	10	0	10	0	201	27	228	4.0
TOTAL[†]	278	12	104	11	5397	224	5637	100.0

1. Cases are classified by age at diagnosis.

2. Deaths are classified by age at death.

Table 2.4
Cases of AIDS by sex and exposure category, cumulative to 30 September 1998,
and for two previous yearly intervals.

Adults/adolescents (13 years and older at diagnosis of AIDS)

EXPOSURECATEGORY	1 Oct 96 – 30 Sep 97		1 Oct 97 – 30 Sep 98		Cumulative to 30 Sep 98			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
Male homosexual/bisexual contact	268	–	173	–	6408	–	6408	83.5
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	16	–	4	–	337	–	337	4.4
Injecting drug use	13	6	12	1	148	73	221	2.9
<i>Heterosexual</i>	4	3	8	1	101	58	159	
<i>Not further specified</i>	9	3	4	0	47	15	62	
Heterosexual contact:	29	20	28	9	247	159	406	5.3
<i>Sex with injecting drug user</i>	1	4	0	0	7	15	22	
<i>Sex with bisexual male</i>	–	4	–	1	–	36	36	
<i>From high prevalence country</i>	5	4	7	4	37	25	62	
<i>Sex with person from high prevalence country</i>	6	0	5	1	34	13	47	
<i>Sex with person with medically acquired HIV</i>	0	0	0	1	2	9	11	
<i>Sex with HIV-infected person, exposure not specified</i>	2	3	1	1	27	20	47	
<i>Not further specified</i>	15	5	15	1	140	41	181	
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	6	0	1	0	109	3	112	1.5
Receipt of blood /tissue	0	1	2	1	79	59	138	1.8
Health care setting	0	0	0	0	1	3	4	0.0
Total Adults/Adolescents[†]	332	27	220	11	7329	297	7626	99.4

Children (under 13 years at diagnosis of AIDS)

Mother with/at risk for HIV infection	0	1	1	0	12	13	25	0.3
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	0	0	0	0	5	0	5	0.1
Receipt of blood /tissue	0	0	0	0	11	3	14	0.2
Total Children	0	1	1	0	28	16	44	0.6
Sub-total	332	28	221	11	7357	313	7670	100.0
Other/undetermined ¹	18	2	14	1	234	11	267	
TOTAL[†]	350	30	235	12	7591	324	7937	

1. The 'Other/undetermined' category includes 22 AIDS cases in people whose sex was reported as transgender. The category was excluded from the calculation of the percentage of cases attributed to each exposure category.

Table 2.5
Deaths following AIDS by sex and exposure category, cumulative to 30 September 1998, and for two previous yearly intervals.

Adults/adolescents (13 years and older at diagnosis of AIDS)

EXPOSURE CATEGORY	1 Oct 96 – 30 Sep 97		1 Oct 97 – 30 Sep 98		Cumulative to 30 Sep 98			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
Male homosexual/bisexual contact	230	–	78	–	4619	–	4619	84.5
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	18	–	8	–	241	–	241	4.4
Injecting drug use	6	3	4	1	87	49	136	2.5
<i>Heterosexual</i>	3	3	2	0	69	42	111	
<i>Not further specified</i>	3	0	2	1	18	7	25	
Heterosexual contact:	11	7	3	6	127	102	229	4.2
<i>Sex with injecting drug user</i>	1	0	0	1	2	8	10	
<i>Sex with bisexual male</i>	–	2	–	1	–	25	25	
<i>From high prevalence country</i>	1	0	0	2	9	12	21	
<i>Sex with person from high prevalence country</i>	0	0	1	1	12	10	22	
<i>Sex with person with medically acquired HIV</i>	0	0	0	0	2	6	8	
<i>Sex with HIV-infected person, exposure not specified</i>	2	3	1	0	22	15	37	
<i>Not further specified</i>	7	2	1	1	80	26	106	
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	4	0	1	0	84	3	87	1.6
Receipt of blood /tissue	1	1	0	1	67	50	117	2.1
Health care setting	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	0.1
Total Adults/Adolescents[†]	270	11	94	8	5226	206	5432	99.4

Children (under 13 years at diagnosis of AIDS)

Mother with/at risk for HIV infection	0	0	0	2	7	9	16	0.3
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0.1
Receipt of blood /tissue	0	0	0	0	11	2	13	0.2
Total Children	0	0	0	2	21	11	32	0.6
Sub-total	270	11	94	10	5247	217	5464	100.0
Other/undetermined ¹	8	1	10	1	150	7	173	
TOTAL[†]	278	12	104	11	5397	224	5637	

1. The 'Other/undetermined' category includes 16 deaths following AIDS in people whose sex was reported as transgender. The category was excluded from the calculation of the percentage of cases attributed to each exposure category.

THE NATIONAL HIV DATABASE

Table 3.1

Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection by sex¹ and State/Territory, cumulative to 30 September 1998, and for two previous yearly intervals.

STATE/ TERRITORY	1 Oct 96 – 30 Sep 97		1 Oct 97 – 30 Sep 98		Cumulative to 30 Sep 98			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	Rate ²
ACT	6	4	5	2	183	22	205	66.3
NSW ³	388	23	339	35	10430	566	11274	178.8
NT	8	2	7	3	99	8	107	56.6
QLD	99	16	97	17	1846	132	1984	57.8
SA	33	7	29	4	640	54	694	46.8
TAS	1	0	2	0	77	4	81	17.2
VIC ⁴	175	13	127	9	3708	198	3943	85.2
WA	32	5	33	17	867	97	967	53.4
TOTAL⁵	742	70	639	87	17850	1081	19255	103.6⁶

- Forty one people (19 NSW, 6 QLD, 13 VIC and 3 WA) whose sex was reported as transgender are included in the total columns of Tables 3.1 – 3.3.
- Rate per one hundred thousand current population. Population estimates by sex, State/Territory and calendar interval from Australian Demographic Statistics (Australian Bureau of Statistics).
- Cumulative total for NSW includes 259 people whose sex was not reported.
- Cumulative total for VIC includes 24 people whose sex was not reported.
- Cumulative total for Australia includes 283 people whose sex was not reported.
- Estimated number of new diagnoses of HIV infection, adjusted for multiple reports, was 16,550 (range 16,160 to 16,950). Reference: Law MG, McDonald AM and Kaldor JM. Estimation of cumulative HIV incidence in Australia, based on national case reporting. Aust NZ J Public Health 1996; 20: 215 – 217.

Table 3.2

Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection for which exposure category was reported, by sex and exposure category, cumulative to 30 September 1998 and for two previous yearly intervals.

EXPOSURECATEGORY	1 Oct 96 – 30 Sep 97		1 Oct 97 – 30 Sep 98		Cumulative to 30 Sep 98			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total ¹	%
Male homosexual/bisexual contact	521	–	435	–	12244	–	12244	79.2
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	29	–	27	–	562	–	562	3.6
Injecting drug use	16	4	13	8	512	171	690	4.5
<i>Heterosexual</i>	11	3	9	6	166	117	284	
<i>Not further specified</i>	5	1	4	2	346	54	406	
Heterosexual contact:	73	57	66	71	766	612	1381	8.9
<i>Sex with injecting drug user</i>	1	3	6	6	23	72	95	
<i>Sex with bisexual male</i>	–	3	–	5	–	91	91	
<i>From high prevalence country</i>	14	15	11	16	80	95	176	
<i>Sex with person from high prevalence country</i>	21	11	22	17	119	74	193	
<i>Sex with person with medically acquired HIV</i>	1	0	1	0	6	13	19	
<i>Sex with HIV-infected person, exposure not specified</i>	2	14	5	11	42	82	125	
<i>Not further specified</i>	34	11	21	16	496	185	682	
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	0	0	0	0	225	4	229	1.5
Receipt of blood /tissue	1	2	1	2	106	102	208	1.3
Health care setting²	0	0	0	0	3	8	11	0.1
Total Adults/Adolescents	640	63	542	81	14418	897	15325	99.1

Children (under 13 years at diagnosis of HIV infection)

Mother with/at risk for HIV infection	3	3	4	0	35	25	60	0.4
Haemophilia/coagulation disorder	0	0	0	0	66	0	66	0.4
Receipt of blood /tissue	0	0	0	0	13	7	20	0.1
Total Children	3	3	4	0	114	32	146	0.9
Sub-total	643	66	546	81	14532	929	15471	100.0
Other/undetermined ³	99	4	93	6	3318	152	3784	
TOTAL	742	70	639	87	17850	1081	19255⁴	

1. Total column includes people whose sex was not reported.
2. 'Health care setting' includes 5 cases of occupationally acquired HIV infection and 4 cases of HIV transmission in surgical rooms.
3. The 'Other/undetermined' category includes 3767 adults/adolescents and 17 children. Forty one people whose sex was reported as transgender were included in the 'Other/undetermined' category. The 'Other/undetermined' category was excluded from the calculation of the percentage of cases attributed to each exposure category.
4. See footnotes Table 3.1.

Table 3.3
Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection by sex and age group, cumulative to 30 September 1998, and for two previous yearly intervals.

AGEGROUP (YEARS)	1 Oct 96 – 30 Sep 97		1 Oct 97 – 30 Sep 98		Cumulative to 30 Sep 98			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
0 – 2	3	2	3	0	40	16	57	0.3
3 – 12	0	1	1	0	87	19	106	0.5
0 – 12	3	3	4	0	127	35	163	0.8
13 – 19	4	4	6	6	397	71	477	2.5
20 – 29	191	23	169	38	6208	448	6775	35.2
30 – 39	293	19	237	31	6537	285	6934	36.0
40 – 49	159	15	139	9	3079	111	3237	16.8
50 – 59	61	4	63	0	996	47	1056	5.5
60 +	24	2	20	3	322	54	378	2.0
Unknown	7	0	1	0	184	30	235	1.2
TOTAL¹	742	70	639	87	17850	1081	19255	100.0

1. See footnotes Table 3.1.

Table 3.4
Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection in the year 1 October 1997 to 30 September 1998 for which an HIV seroconversion illness was diagnosed or the date of a prior negative test was within one year of diagnosis of HIV infection, by sex and State/Territory and for two six month intervals of HIV diagnosis.

STATE/ TERRITORY	1 Oct 97 – 31 Mar 98		1 Apr 98 – 30 Sep 98		1 Oct 97 – 30 Sep 98		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
ACT	2	0	1	0	3	0	3
NSW	37	2	23	0	60	2	62
NT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
QLD	9	0	11	1	20	1	21
SA	5	0	4	0	9	0	9
TAS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VIC	20	1	13	0	33	1	34
WA	6	0	4	2	10	2	12
TOTAL	79	3	56	3	135	6	141

Table 3.5
Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection in the year 1 October 1997 to 30 September 1998 for which an HIV seroconversion illness was diagnosed or the date of a prior negative test was within one year of diagnosis of HIV infection, by sex and exposure category, and for two six month intervals of HIV diagnosis.

EXPOSURECATEGORY	1 Oct 97 – 31 Mar 98		1 Apr 98 – 30 Sep 98		1 Oct 97 – 30 Sep 98		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
Malehomosexual/bisexual contact	67	–	46	–	113	–	113
Male homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	4	–	5	–	9	–	9
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	1	1	0	2	1	3	4
Heterosexual contact	4	2	1	1	5	3	8
Health care setting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other/undetermined	3	0	4	0	7	0	7
TOTAL	79	3	56	3	135	6	141

Table 3.6
Number of new diagnoses of HIV infection in the year 1 October 1997 to 30 September 1998 for which an HIV seroconversion illness was diagnosed or the date of a prior negative test was within one year of diagnosis of HIV infection, by sex and age group and for two six month intervals of HIV diagnosis.

AGEGROUP (YEARS)	1 Oct 97 – 31 Mar 98		1 Apr 98 – 30 Sep 98		1 Oct 97 – 30 Sep 98		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total ¹
13 – 19	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
20 – 29	41	1	21	2	62	3	65
30 – 39	27	2	21	0	48	2	50
40 – 49	4	0	7	0	11	0	11
50 – 59	5	0	5	0	10	0	10
60 +	2	0	2	0	4	0	4
TOTAL	79	3	56	3	135	6	141

SENTINEL SURVEILLANCE OF HIV INFECTION IN SEXUAL HEALTH CLINICS

Table 4.1

Number of people seen, number of people tested for HIV antibody and number of people newly diagnosed with HIV infection by sex and sexual health clinic, during the quarter 1 July 1998 to 30 September 1998.

Sexual Health Clinic	Seen at Clinic		Tested for HIV antibody		Newly diagnosed with HIV infection		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
Sydney Sexual Health Centre, NSW	1486	1052	576	361	5	1	6
Brisbane Sexual Health Clinic, QLD	916	590	353	177	1	0	1
Gold Coast Sexual Health Clinic, QLD	412	564	208	322	0	0	0
Clinic 275, Adelaide, SA	1038	753	720	485	1	0	1
Melbourne Sexual Health Centre, VIC	2056	1652	1228	1171	2	0	2
TOTAL	5908	4611	3085	2516	9	1	10

Table 4.2
Number of people seen who had a *previous negative HIV antibody test*, percent retested for HIV antibody, and number (percent) newly diagnosed with HIV infection, by sex and exposure category, during the quarter 1 July 1998 to 30 September 1998.

EXPOSURE CATEGORY	Previous negative HIV antibody test		% Retested for HIV antibody		Newly diagnosed with HIV infection			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
Homosexual/bisexual contact	851	–	65.0	–	4	–	4	0.7
Homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	75	–	64.0	–	0	–	0	0.0
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	236	192	58.9	50.0	0	0	0	0.0
Heterosexual contact outside Australia ¹	1864	1843	56.1	54.3	1	0	1	0.05
<i>within Australia only</i>	213	188	52.1	42.0	0	0	0	0.0
Sex worker	1651	1655	56.6	55.7	1	0	1	0.05
Sex worker and injecting drug use	–	288	–	78.5	–	1	1	0.4
Other/undetermined	–	25	–	76.0	–	0	0	0.0
TOTAL	108	175	86.1	80.0	0	0	0	0.0
TOTAL	3134	2523	59.9	58.7	5	1	6	0.2

1. Within 3 months for Clinic 275, SA, and one year for other clinics.

Table 4.3
Number of people seen with *no previous HIV antibody test*, percent tested for HIV antibody for the first time, and number (percent) newly diagnosed with HIV infection, by sex and exposure category, during the quarter 1 July 1998 to 30 September 1998.

EXPOSURE CATEGORY	No previous HIV antibody test		% Tested for HIV antibody		Newly diagnosed with HIV infection			
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total	%
Homosexual/bisexual contact	357	–	47.3	–	1	–	1	0.6
Homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	36	–	80.6	–	1	–	1	3.4
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	78	71	80.8	93.0	0	0	0	0.0
Heterosexual contact	1561	1497	52.4	52.6	1	0	1	0.06
<i>outside Australia</i> ¹	134	86	53.7	48.8	0	0	0	0.0
<i>within Australia only</i>	1427	1411	52.3	52.9	1	0	1	0.07
Sex worker	–	63	–	77.8	–	0	0	0.0
Sex worker and injecting drug use	–	3	–	0.0	–	0	0	0.0
Other/undetermined	469	428	27.3	30.6	1	0	1	0.4
TOTAL	2501	2062	48.3	50.1	4	0	4	0.2

1. Within 3 months for Clinic 275 and one year for other clinics.

Table 4.4
Number of people seen, number of people tested for HIV antibody and number of people newly diagnosed with HIV infection, by sex and age group, during the quarter 1 July 1998 to 30 September 1998.

AGEGROUP (YEARS)	Seen at Clinic		Tested for HIV antibody		Newly diagnosed with HIV infection		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
13 - 19	211	541	136	231	0	0	0
20 - 29	2464	2521	1404	1416	2	1	3
30 - 39	1897	1012	938	570	3	0	3
40 - 49	809	408	377	229	3	0	3
50 - 59	378	103	168	63	1	0	1
60 +	145	24	60	7	0	0	0
Not reported	4	2	2	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	5908	4611	3085	2516	9	1	10

Table 4.5
Number of people diagnosed with specific STD¹, other than HIV, by sex, exposure category and whether or not they were tested for HIV antibody² during the quarter 1 July 1998 to 30 September 1998.

EXPOSURE CATEGORY	Tested for HIV antibody		Not tested for HIV antibody	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Homosexual/bisexual contact	37	–	31	–
Homosexual/bisexual contact and injecting drug use	2	–	2	–
Injecting drug use (female and heterosexual male)	12	3	1	3
Heterosexual contact	51	31	53	26
<i>outside Australia³</i>	10	4	9	7
<i>within Australia only</i>	41	27	44	19
Sex worker	–	6	–	2
Sex worker and injecting drug use	–	0	–	0
Other/undetermined	3	3	4	0
TOTAL	105	43	91	31

1. Specific STD are gonorrhoea, syphilis and chlamydia.
2. Includes people who may have been previously tested for HIV antibody and excludes people previously known to have HIV infection.
3. Within three months for Clinic 275 and one year for other clinics.

REPORT FROM WHO WESTERN PACIFIC REGION

Dr G Poumerol, Regional Advisor, WHO Regional Office, Manila.

Table 5.1

AIDS and HIV in the WHO Western Pacific Region by country; based on reports available at 30 September 1998.

COUNTRY/ AREA	CUMULATIVE AIDS CASES				AIDS Rate ¹	Cumulative Diagnoses HIV
	Male	Female	Children <13 Years	Total		
American Samoa	0	0	0	0	0	0
Australia†	7591	324	44	7937	42.3	19255
Brunei	11	1	0	12	3.1	475
Cambodia	108	23	122	1379	4.2	14670
China ²	269	18	0	301	0.0	10676
Cook Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fed. S. Micronesia	2	0	0	2	1.8	2
Fiji	2	1	0	8	1.0	43
French Polynesia	4	0	0	54	24.9	174
Guam	45	4	0	49	30	108
Hong Kong	314	35	5	349	4.2	1066
Japan	1007	162	10	1897	1.2	5388
Kiribati	3	1	0	4	2.6	20
Laos	42	29	2	91	0.7	288
Macao	11	2	0	13	2.2	173
Malaysia	1696	108	19	1804	3.0	26549
Marshall Islands	1	1	0	2	3.8	9
Mongolia	0	0	0	0	0	3
Nauru	0	0	0	0	0	1
New Caledonia	52	14	1	66	26.9	169
New Zealand	626	30	4	656	18.9	1285
Niue	0	0	0	0	0	0
N. Mariana Islands	5	1	0	8	10.4	15
Palau	1	0	0	1	5.8	1
Papua New Guinea	215	196	9	417	5.4	1213
Philippines	219	123	7	343	0.5	1099
Rep. of Korea	104	11	0	115	0.1	811
Samoa	4	2	2	6	3.7	9
Singapore	389	30	1	419	9.2	831
Solomon Islands	0	0	0	0	0	1
Tokelau	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tonga	10	2	0	14	6.1	19
Tuvalu	0	0	0	0	0	1
Vanuatu	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vietnam	1008	157	4	1819	1.0	10118
Wallis and Futuna	1	0	0	1	7.1	2
TOTAL†	13740	1275	230	17767	0.8	94474

1. AIDS cases per 100,000 total current population.

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National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research

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NOTES

The National AIDS Registry is maintained by NCHECR on behalf of the National HIV Surveillance Committee, which consists of representatives from NCHECR, and the Health Departments of each State and Territory and the Commonwealth of Australia. The Registry is based on reports from doctors who diagnose AIDS, made to the Health Department in the State/Territory of diagnosis. Date of birth and a name code (first two letters of first and last name) are used to minimise duplicate registration, while maintaining confidentiality.

The National HIV Database is maintained by NCHECR on behalf of the National HIV Surveillance Committee. It is based on reports of new diagnoses of HIV infection from HIV Reference Laboratories (ACT, NSW, TAS, VIC), or from a combination of Reference Laboratory and diagnosing doctors (NT, QLD, SA, WA). In order to avoid counting the same case more than once, only diagnoses which are determined to be new by the diagnosing laboratory or doctor are reported for the purposes of national surveillance.

Sentinel surveillance is carried out by six sexual health clinics in five Australian cities, which send quarterly reports on HIV antibody testing to NCHECR. Tabulations from the National AIDS Registry, the National HIV Database and Sentinel HIV Surveillance in sexual health clinics are based on data available three months after the end of the reporting interval indicated, to allow for reporting delay and to incorporate newly available information.

HIV antibody testing is carried out at Public Health Laboratories and Blood Transfusion Services, and summary information on testing is sent on a four-weekly basis to the National Serology Reference Laboratory Australia, which produces quarterly tabulations for publication in the Australian HIV Surveillance Report.

Abbreviations: HIV is the human immunodeficiency virus, and unless otherwise specified, refers to HIV-1 only. AIDS is the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome and STD stands for sexually transmissible disease. Specified countries are those of sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean, where transmission of HIV is believed to be predominantly heterosexual. The Australian States and Territories are: Australian Capital Territory (ACT), New South Wales (NSW), Northern Territory (NT), Queensland (QLD), South Australia (SA), Tasmania (TAS), Victoria (VIC) and Western Australia (WA). NCHECR is the National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical Research.

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